

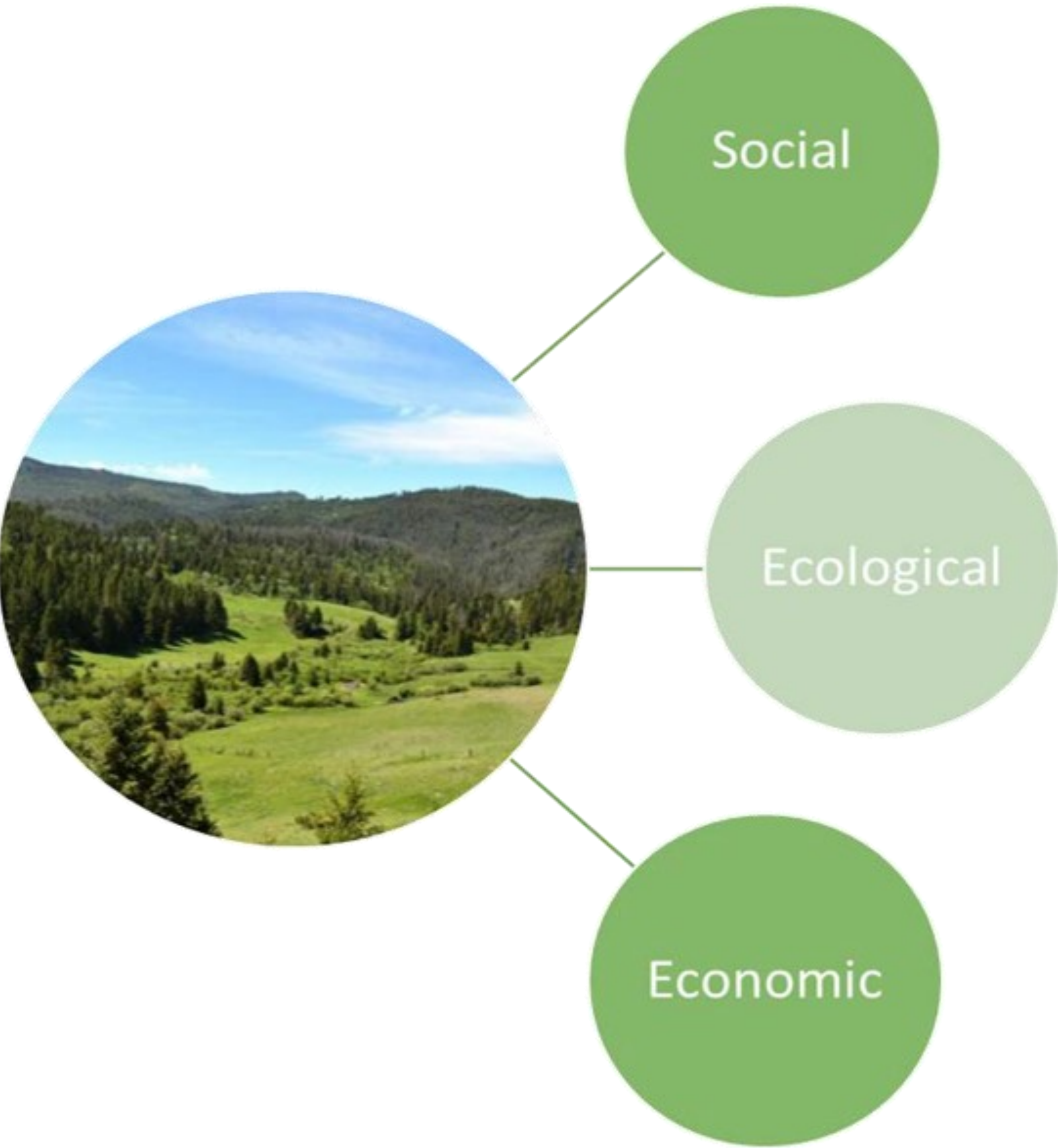
# What are the Distinctive Roles and Contributions?

## Overview

The landscape of the Manti-La Sal National Forest is shaped by its geology and climate, past and present. The San Pitch Mountains and Wasatch Plateau comprise the North Zone of the Forest, while the La Sal and Abajo Mountains comprise the South Zone.

## What is Distinctive Roles, Responsibilities and Contributions?

The Manti-La Sal National Forest’s most distinctive roles and contributions to the nation, the region, and the local area are described below. Understanding these roles and contributions will help illustrate realistic and achievable desired conditions for the Forest and set a focus for the Plan when we look at where the Forest has been, where it is today, and future directions.



## National Scale



- Nationally, the Manti-La Sal National Forest provides significant opportunities to see, learn from, and maintain traditional practices with outstanding landscape features and cultural resources.
- Significant cultural landscapes in the United States, with thousands of archaeological sites and important areas of spiritual significance
- Paleontological discoveries such as dinosaur, early mammal, and Pleistocene mammal assemblages.
- Coal and other energy resources - make critical contributions to the total energy consumption in Utah and the western US
- The Forest includes the Great Basin Experiment Station—the first range and watershed research station

## Regional Scale



- The Forest is part of the grand circle of parks in Southwest Utah and offers multiple habitat, resource and recreation features for the Region.
- Habitat for the Mexican spotted owl, a federally threatened species and. quaking aspen, one of the few hardwood trees that thrive in the arid West.
- Traditional Forest products; including pinyon nuts - a traditional food source, firewood gathering for heating and income, Christmas Trees, and plants/ products for a variety of other traditional uses.
- Six scenic backways : Chicken Creek Road, Mayfield-Ferron Road, Skyline Drive, La Sal Mountain Loop Road, Abajo Loop Road, and Elk Ridge Road.
- Unique bouldering, rock and ice-climbing experiences in Maple Canyon and the Joes Valley Reservoir area

# How do you use the Forest?

## Local Scale



- At a local level, the Forest contributes to local communities through economic returns-to-counties, employment, public utility sites, wildfire protection, recreation and tourism opportunities, water resources, livestock grazing and habitats important for native wildlife and plants.
- Reliable, quality source of drinking water and water or agricultural and industrial proposes.
- Domestic livestock grazing adds to the stability of the agriculture sector of the surrounding economies
- Diverse habitats that contribute to populations of native and desired non-native plants, fish, and animal species